



Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

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tered in the form of its crystalline citrate $C_{10}H_{17}N_3O_6 \cdot C_6H_8O_7$ esp. to control human filariasis and large roundworms in dogs and cats

di-ethyl ether \di-ē-thəl-ē\ *n* (ca. 1930): **ETHER** 3a

di-ethylstilbestrol \-stīl-bes-trōl, -trōl\ *n* [ISV] (1938): a colorless crystalline synthetic compound $C_{18}H_{20}O_2$ used as a potent estrogen but contraindicated in pregnancy for its tendency to cause cancer or birth defects in offspring — called also *stilbestrol*

di-ethyl zinc *n* (1952): a volatile pyrophoric liquid organometallic compound $C_4H_{10}Zn$ used esp. to catalyze polymerization reactions and to decalcify paper

di-e-ti-tian or **di-e-ti-cian** \di-ē-ti-shən\ *n* [dietitian irreg. fr. *diet* + *-ician*] (ca. 1846): a specialist in dietetics

di-fer \di-fər\ *vi* **di-ferred**; **di-fer-ing** \-fə-rīŋ\ [ME, fr. MF or L; MF *differer* to postpone, be different, fr. L *differre*, fr. *dis* + *ferre* to carry — more at **BEAR**] (14c) 1 *a*: to be unlike or distinct in nature, form, or characteristics (the law of one state ~s from that of another) 2 *b*: to change from time to time or from one instance to another: **VARY** (the number of cookies in a box may ~) 2: to be of unlike or opposite opinion: **DISAGREE** (they ~ on religious matters)

di-fer-ence \di-fə-rəns\, \di-fə-rən(t)s\ *n* (14c) 1 *a*: the quality or state of being different 2 *b*: an instance of differing in nature, form, or quality *c* *archaic*: a characteristic that distinguishes one from another or from the average 3 *d*: the element or factor that separates or distinguishes contrasting situations 2: distinction or discrimination in preference 3 *a*: disagreement in opinion: **DISSENSION** 2: an instance or cause of disagreement 4: the degree or amount by which things differ in quantity or measure; *specif*: **REMAINDER** 2b(1) 5: a significant change in or effect on a situation

di-fer-ence *w*-**enced**; **-ence-ing** (1576): **DIFFERENTIATE**, **DISTINGUISH**

di-fer-ent \di-fər-ənt, \di-fə-rənt\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *different*, *differens*, pp. of *differre*] (14c) 1: partly or totally unlike in nature, form, or quality: **DISSIMILAR** (could hardly be more ~) — often followed by *from*, *than*, or *chiefly* Brit. to (small, neat hand, very ~ from the captain's tottery characters — R. L. Stevenson) (vastly ~ in size than he was twenty-five years ago — N. M. Pusey) (a very ~ situation to the one under which we live — Sir Winston Churchill) 2: not the same as: **DIFFERENT** (age groups) 2: **VARIOUS** (members of the class) *c*: **ANOTHER** (switched to a ~ TV program) 3: **UNUSUAL** (she was ~ and superior) — **di-fer-ent-ness** *n*

di-fer-ent *adj* (1744): **DIFFERENTLY**

di-fer-ent-ly \di-fə-rən(t)-shē-ē, -shē-ē\ *adv* [L, *differens*, fr. *differens*, *differens*] (1690): an element, feature, or factor that distinguishes one entity, state, or class from another; *esp*: a characteristic trait distinguishing a species from other species of the same genus

di-fer-ent-ly \di-fə-rən(t)-shē-ē, -shē-ē\ *adv* (1647) 1 *a*: of, relating to, or constituting a difference: **DISTINGUISHING** 2 *b*: making a distinction between individuals or classes 3 *c*: based on or resulting from a differential 2: being, relating to, or involving a differential or differentiation 3 *a*: relating to quantitative differences 2: producing effects by reason of quantitative differences — **di-fer-ent-ly** \-ren(t)-shē-ē\ *adv*

differential *n* (1704) 1 *a*: the product of the derivative of a function of one variable by the increment of the independent variable 2: a sum of products in which each product consists of a partial derivative of a given function of several variables multiplied by the corresponding increment and which contains as many products as there are independent variables in the function 2: a difference between comparable individuals or classes (a price ~); *also*: the amount of such a difference 3 *a*: **DIFFERENTIAL GEAR** 2: a case covering a differential gear

differential calculus *n* (1702): a branch of mathematics concerned chiefly with the study of the rate of change of functions with respect to their variables *esp*, through the use of derivatives and differentials

differential equation *n* (1763): an equation containing differentials or derivatives of functions — compare **PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION**

differential gear *n* (ca. 1859): an arrangement of gears forming an epicyclic train for connecting two shafts or axles in the same line, dividing the driving force equally between them, and permitting one shaft to revolve faster than the other — called also *differential gearing*

differential geometry *n* (ca. 1909): a branch of mathematics using calculus to study the geometric properties of curves and surfaces

di-fer-ent-ly \di-fə-rən(t)-shē-ē, -shē-ē\ *adv* (1816) 1 *a*: to obtain the mathematical derivative of 2: to mark or show a difference in: constitute a difference that distinguishes 3: to develop course of development 5: to express the specific distinguishing quality of: **DISCRIMINATE** ~ *vi* 1: to recognize or give expression to a difference 2: to become distinct or different in character 3: to undergo differentiation — **di-fer-ent-ly** \-ren(t)-shē-ē\ *adv*

di-fer-ent-ly \di-fə-rən(t)-shē-ē, -shē-ē\ *adv* (1802) 1: the act or process of differentiating 2: development from the one to the many, the modification of the complex, or the homogeneous to the heterogeneous 3 *a*: the sum of the body parts for performance of particular functions 2: the structures whereby apparently indifferent cells, tissues, and organs attain their adult form and function 4: the processes by which various rock types are produced from a common magma

di-fer-ent-ly \di-fə-rən(t)-shē-ē, -shē-ē\ *adv* (14c) 1: in a different manner 2: ~

di-fi-cile \di-fī-sē(ə)\ *adj* [F, lit., difficult] (1536): **STUBBORN**, **UNREASONABLE**

di-fi-cult \di-fī-kəlt\ *adj* [ME, back-formation fr. *difficultus*] (14c) 1: hard to do, make, or carry out: **ARDUOUS** (a ~ climb) 2 *a*: hard to deal with, manage, or overcome (a ~ child) 2 *b*: hard to understand: **PUZZLING** (reading) *syn* see **HARD** — **di-fi-cult-ly** *adv*

di-fi-cul-ty \di-fī-kəltē\ *n*, *pl* **-ties** [ME *difficultie*, fr. L *difficultas*, fr. *difficilis* not easy, fr. *dis* + *facilis* easy — more at **PACILE**] (14c) 1: the quality or state of being difficult 2: **CONTROVERSY**, **DISAGREEMENT** 3: **OBJECTION** 4: something difficult: **IMPEDIMENT** 5: **EMBARRASSMENT**, **TRouble** — usu. used in pl.

di-fi-dence \di-fī-dəns\, \-fə-dən(t)s\ *n* (14c): the quality or state of being diffident

di-fi-dent \di-fī-dənt, \-dənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *diffident*, *diffidens*, pp. of *diffidere* to distrust, fr. *dis* + *fidere* to trust — more at **BIDE**] (15c) 1: hesitant in acting, or speaking through lack of self-confidence 2 *archaic*: **DISTRUSTFUL** 3: **RESERVED**, **UNASSERTIVE** *syn* see **SHY** — **di-fi-dent-ly** *adv*

di-fract \di-frakt\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *diffraction*] (1803): to cause to undergo diffraction

di-frac-tion \di-frak-shən\ *n* [NL *diffraction*, *diffraction*, fr. L *diffingere* to break apart, fr. *dis* + *frangere* to break — more at **BREAK**] (1671): a modification which light undergoes in passing by the edges of opaque bodies or through narrow slits or in being reflected from ruled surfaces and in which the rays appear to be deflected and to produce fringes of parallel light and dark or colored bands; *also*: a similar modification of other waves (as sound waves)

diffraction grating *n* (1867): **GRATING** 3

di-frac-tom-e-ter \di-frak-tə-mə-tər\ *n* (ca. 1909): an instrument for analyzing the structure of a usu. crystalline substance from the scattering pattern produced when a beam of radiation or particles (as X rays or neutrons) strikes it — **di-frac-to-met-ric** \di-frak-tə-met-rik\ *adj* — **di-frac-tom-e-try** \di-frak-tə-mə-tre\ *n*

di-fuse \di-fyūs\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *diffusus*, pp. of *diffundere* to spread out, fr. *dis* + *fundere* to pour — more at **FOUND**] (15c) 1: being at once verbose and ill-organized 2: not concentrated or localized (scattered) *syn* see **WORDY** — **di-fuse-ly** *adv* — **di-fuse-ness** *n*

di-fuse \di-fyūs\, *vb* **di-fused**; **di-fus-ing** [ME *diffuse*, pp. fr. L *diffusus*, pp. *vi* (14c) 1: to pour out and permit or cause to spread freely 2: **EXTEND**, **SCATTER** 3: to spread thinly or wastefully 2: to subject to diffusion; *esp*: to break up and distribute (incident light) by reflection ~ *vi* 1: to spread out or become transmitted *esp*, by contact 2: to undergo diffusion — **di-fus-ible** \di-fyū-zə-bəl\ *adj*

di-fuse-po-rous \di-fyūs-pō-rəs, \-pōr-\ *adj* [*diffuse*] (ca. 1902): having vessels more or less evenly distributed throughout an annual ring and not varying greatly in size — compare **RING-POROUS**

di-fuse-er \di-fyū-zər\ *n* (ca. 1679) 1: one that diffuses; as *a*: a device (as a reflector) for distributing the light of a lamp evenly 2: a screen (as of cloth or frosted glass) for softening lighting (as in photography) 3: a device (as slats at different angles) for deflecting air from an outlet in various directions 2: a device for reducing the velocity and increasing the static pressure of a fluid passing through a system

di-fu-sion \di-fyū-zhən\ *n* (14c) 1: the action of diffusing: the state of being diffused 2: **PROXIMITY**, **DIFFUSION** 3 *a*: the process whereby particles of liquids, gases, or solids intermingle as the result of their spontaneous movement caused by thermal agitation and in dissolved substances move from a region of higher to one of lower concentration 2 *b* (1): reflection of light by a rough reflecting surface (2): transmission of light through a translucent material: **SCATTERING** 4: the spread of cultural elements from one area or group of people to others by contact 5: the softening of sharp outlines in a photographic image — **di-fu-sion-al** \-fū-zhən-əl\ *adj*

di-fu-sion-ist \-fū-zhən-ist\ *n* (1938): an anthropologist who emphasizes the role of diffusion in the history of culture rather than independent invention or discovery — **di-fu-sion-ism** \-fū-zhən-iz-əm\ *n* — **diffusionist** *adj*

di-fu-sive \di-fyū-siv, \-zīv\ *adj* (1614): tending to diffuse: characterized by diffusion (~ motion of atoms) — **di-fu-sive-ly** *adv* — **di-fu-sive-ness** *n* — **di-fu-siv-ity** \di-fyū-siv-ə-tē, \-zī-\ *n*

di-fu-sion-al \di-fū-kē-shən-əl, \-shən-əl\ *adj* (1943): of, relating to, or being a compound with two highly reactive sites in each molecule

dig \dig\ *vb* **digged**; **dig-ging** [ME *diggen*] *vi* (13c) 1 *a*: to break up, turn, or loosen (earth) with an implement 2: to prepare the soil of (~ a garden) 2 *a*: to bring to the surface by digging: **UN-EARTH** 2 *b*: to bring to light or out of hiding (~ up facts) 3: to hollow out or form by removing earth: **EXCAVATE** 4: to drive down so as to penetrate: **THRUST** 5: **POKE**, **PROD** 6 *a*: to pay attention to: **NOTICE** (~ that fancy hat) 2 *b*: **UNDERSTAND**, **APPRECIATE** (if you do something subtle ~ only one tenth of the audience will ~ it — Nat Hentoff) 3: **LIKE**, **ADMIRE** (high school students ~ short poetry — David Burnmaster) ~ *vi* 1: to turn up, loosen, or remove earth: **DELVE** 2: to work hard or laboriously 3: to advance by or as if by removing or pushing aside material

dig *n* (1819) 1 *a*: **THRUST**, **POKE** 2 *b*: a cutting remark 2 *pl* *a*: living accommodations 2 *b* *chiefly* Brit.: **LODGING**, **HOTEL** 3: an archaeological excavation site; *also*: the excavation itself

dig-a-my \di-gə-mē\ *n*, *pl* **-mies** [LL *digamia*, fr. LGK, fr. Gk *digamos* married to two people; fr. *di* + *gamos* -gamous] (1635): a second marriage after the termination of the first

di-gas-tric \di-gas-trik\ *adj* [NL *digestricus*, fr. *di* + *gastrius* gastric] (ca. 1721): of, relating to, or being a muscle with two bellies separated by a median tendon

di-ge-net-ic \di-jē-ne-tik\ *adj* [NL *Digenetica*, subclass name (syn. of *Digena*); fr. *di* + *genetic*; neut. pl. of *geneticus* genetic] (ca. 1883): of or relating to a subclass (*Digena*) of trematode worms in which sexual reproduction as an internal parasite of a vertebrate alternates with asexual reproduction in a mollusk

\ə\ abut \k\ kitten, F. table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ch\ chin \ə\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \h\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \ŋ\ sing \o\ go \o\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot